

Amendments to the Claims

C1  
Claim 1. (currently amended): A method of calculating sorting costs for an incoming mail sorting apparatus having a database of addressees for use in sorting incoming mailpieces comprising the steps of:

- a) collecting information about each one of a plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus, the information used to determine a type of mailpiece and a type of addressee information for each one of the plurality of mailpieces;
- b) determining the type of mailpiece using the information collected in step a);
- c) associating the information about each one of the plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus with addressee information from the database of addressees;
- d) storing a piece count for each one of the plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus, the piece count stored in association with corresponding addressee information from the database of addressees and said determined type of mailpiece in the incoming mail sorting apparatus; and
- e) calculating incoming sorting cost information using the piece count stored in association with the corresponding addressee.

Claim 2. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information about each one of the plurality of mailpieces comprises a type of mailpiece selected from the group consisting of: a letter, a flat and a postcard.

Claim 3. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information about each one of the plurality of mailpieces comprises a type of addressee information selected from the group consisting of: hand print, hand script, interoffice and interoffice form.

Claims 4-6 (canceled)